GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1127
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
NATIONAL CHEMICAL LABORATORY
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire broke out in National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) on 12 January, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the loss of life and property suffered therein and the time within which it was controlled; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to avert such kind of eventuality in any important laboratory alongwith complete details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS : (DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH)

(a) to (c) : As per the information made available by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, a fire of a minor nature broke out on 12.1.2003 in one of the rooms in the Organic Chemistry Technology Division of National Chemical Laboratory (NCL)Pune. This room was damaged but neither any scientist was trapped in the fire nor any serious injuries were sustained by any person. Director NCL constituted a seven member expert Committee under a senior Scientist of NCL to investigate the cause of fire. Thecommittee observed that the fire was caused due to ignition of accumulated solvent vapour by the sparks generated from electrical short circuiting in the appliances, located in the vicinity of the site of the accident.

The fire was brought under control within two hours by requisitioning fire tenders from the Pune Municipal Corporation.

NCL has in place all safety and mechanical measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents.